

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 20, 1918, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. Hotel Belmont, New York, May 20, 1918. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Conn. Avenue, Washington, D. C. My darling little girl:

Still here in New York. I was much disturbed by what Mr. Wright told me about Dr. Crouter's condition. It seems that a few months ago he underwent a serious operation and his life was almost despaired of. He has now recovered but the doctors will not allow him to leave home as he has to be put in condition for another operation.

I thought I would like to show him that I really have a sincere affection for him for I have not written to him since his illness or given any sign of the real friendship I feel for him. I therefore determined to run down to Philadelphia and go out to Mt. Airy just to see him and shake him by the hand. I did so to-day, spent about an hour with him and returned to New York this evening. I am very glad I did so — and I am sure he knows and feels that I have the kindest feelings towards him and his.

June Yale (Mrs. Crouter) is looking very well but has grown quite grey — accounted for by sons and daughters taller than herself! Four sons and three daughters. I have met two of her daughters in Northampton where they are attending Smiths College; and her youngest daughter June Crouter I met to-day. She is just Gertrude's age. Her baby is a boy, Allen, about 11 or 12 years of age. A fine boy — looks very like his father.

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Dr. Crouter is looking very well but has been much shaken by his operation. I have not heard before the nature of the operation but he told me it was for an affection of the prostate gland; and now he is getting ready for an operation for stone in the bladder.

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These are very serious operations and I do not wonder that his friends are very anxious about him.

He was much interested in my ideas about distilled water and says he is going to try distilled water at once. Will write to him as soon as possible on the subject.

I had expected to leave tonight but received telephone message from Mrs. Macy asking me whether I would not wait until tomorrow so that Helen Keller may have the opportunity of meeting me once more. They are to call here tomorrow at eleven and I hope to get off in the afternoon for Northampton. Then Boston and BB. Please be sure to write to the Parker House.

I saw Casey for a moment this morning but have seen nothing of him since returning from Mt. Airy.

I love you my dear little wifie and miss you very much.

Your loving, Alec.